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Pelham NEWS

On guard



MICHELLE ALLENWELL/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustini places a wreath on behalf of the Town of Pelham during a Remembrance Day ceremony at the Royal Canadian Legion branch 613 on Regional Road 20 in Fonthill. See more on A6.



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LOCALNEWS

Historic pilot comes to life

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

The story of Canadian Second World War pilot Sheldon Luck comes to life in Welland author Ted Beaudoin's new book *Pilot of Fortune*.

The celebrated Canadian has rich history during the war by writing about Luck's adventurous life, from working with Winston Churchill to life as a pilot in Europe.

Beaudoin first met the pilot when

he was working at a journalist in Prince George B.C. He said Luck was a firefighter at the time and was a master of forest fires.

Beaudoin said Luck had pioneered a fire fighting technique called slapping.

"You go up against a mountain side and you release your load of water from the aircraft, but it is a dangerous operation because the wing which is down tends to stall and

you could crash," Beaudoin said.

Beaudoin said he has always been interested in aviation and wished he could have been a pilot, but due to poor vision he wasn't able.

"When I met Luck, it sparked an interest for him to write about Luck's life as a pilot."

"When I was younger I couldn't fly because of my glasses, today you can of course. So, I thought to heck with you guys, I'll learn all I can about aviation ... I've been an aviation writer since 1975."

"Well, I started writing at my first newspaper, the Barrie Examiner, in 1962 and I've been writing ever since. It wasn't long before that I became a director with the Canadian Airline Association," he said.

Through his research Beaudoin came to learn that Luck was British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's personal mailman.

"Wherever Churchill went he was there with his airplane and Churchill's mail. He also earned a King's commendation for his work in doing this, and was inducted into Canada's aviation hall of fame," Beaudoin said.

During the war Luck flew for the Royal Air Force Ferry Command. The command's purpose was to deliver aircraft from manufacturers to non-operational areas. It also transported aircraft to front-line operational units.

Beaudoin said Ferry Command influenced our current international air travel. During the time flying across the North Atlantic was considered "suicidal" but the pilots in Ferry Command took on the challenge.

"It's an incredible pilot," Beaudoin said.

Pilot of Fortune is the sequel to Beaudoin's first biography *Walking On Air* where he begins the story of Luck's life as a pilot. In the first book Beaudoin writes about Luck's first solo flight on Christmas Eve in 1930.

Beaudoin donated a copy of his book to the Welland Public Library last Wednesday. The book is also available for purchase on amazon.com.

Luck died at the age of 95 in 2004, but for Beaudoin, Luck's legacy lives on.

Mallenber@postmedia.com
Twitter: @M_Allenberg

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MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Welland author of the non-fiction book *Pilot of Fortune* Ted Beaudoin donates a copy to the Welland Public Library. Beaudoin, left, speaks to Conor Echlin, reference and information services co-ordinator, about the book.

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LOCAL NEWS

Road to inter-municipal transit not so smooth

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Not all regional councillors appear on board with the route inter-municipal transit is taking in Niagara.

Niagara Region's public works committee voted yesterday last Tuesday on the process underway to develop a more efficient and effective transit system connecting Niagara's municipalities.

But after listening to a presentation from Dennis Kar of Dillon Consulting, the firm hired to assist with the project, Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop asked if the committee now the new model would roll out.

While the new transit plan is set to include expanded routes and the frequency of the service, Redekop questioned how it will serve residents outside of the "core" area of St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland.

He felt it would not increase connectivity to the communities outside of the three major centres.

"The difficulty that I have with this, is in Fort Erie we're being asked to increase our commitment financially to public transit三fold over the next four years, which in all likelihood we will do," he said. But he feels the proposed model does not take into account that local investment providing limited increase in connectivity to the lakeside community.

"It's frustrating for me because I see great opportunity for this system to actually connect Niagara. I see it as the sole, single project that we're working on here to bring Niagara together."

The proposed model would amalgamate St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls transit systems into a single entity to be governed by a new corporation.

Communities outside of the three large urban centres would be responsible for their own local transit in order to link to the inter-municipal connection.

Redekop said it takes students from his community three hours to get to Brock University using public transit—a fact he fears will not be significantly shortened under the new model.

"I have my views on how this is going to work. It's going to work fantastically for the people in the core area and along the north once GO is going. It's not going to do an awful lot for the people in south Niagara, along the Lake Erie shoreline."

St. Catharines Coun. Brian Hart stressed that the system is being built for all Niagara residents, not just students.

Just as gas stations and convenience stores are not found on every corner, the transit system cannot cover every inch of the community to offer the "ultimate Cadillac service," he said. "We can't afford it."

He said councillors must think about what taxpayers can afford and not just "about those anomalies in communities."

"Even in St. Catharines there are people who have to walk 15 minutes to get to a bus."

Welland Mayor Frank Cannion said the system "has to

start somewhere" and that launching point is not likely going to be the ideal.

Instead, the system will continue to evolve over time to meet market needs and the demands of the community, he said.

The proposal for a consolidated model was recently presented to St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls councils.

Additional information was



municipality, Kar said, adding details of the cost were also sought.

That information is expected to be available in the

new year, he said.

Public consultation will begin this week and run until the end of November.

Four public meetings will be held at various Niagara locations. The meetings began yesterday at St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre.

Details on the remaining consultation meetings are available at www.niagaragov.ca/transit.

Residents can also complete a survey at www.mfrifirststandard.com

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From 'sprawl' to 'complete community'



DAVE
AUGUSTYN

I keep the *Sprawl Repair* Manual by Galina Tacheva on my desk at home. The work presents a comprehensive methodology for transforming "sprawl" along with "implementation techniques" for "rebalancing sprawl."

Why? Well, I have to point out that much of Pelham developed as sprawl.

During the late-1800s and

early-1900s, development in the former township of Pelham and village of Fonthill grew along traditional coach routes (like Canboro Road) and at crossings along the TH14 (through Fenwick) and NS&T (through Fonthill) railway lines.

But, the advent of the automobile quickly changed all that.

For example, only in a car-centered culture would one build a high school on some of the best tender fruit land and at a (then) Provincial Highway.

Similarly, prior to the introduction of the arena in 1968, the Pelham Arenas was erected in the mid-1970s in a farmer's field and far from restaurants and retail.

In fact, much of Pelham's previous residential development sprawled across farm lands and forests. These now-new residential neighbourhoods from the 1950s and 60s contain more than 50 cul-de-sacs or courts. That's quite different from traditional neighbourhoods of College, Emmett, Elm, Burton and Chestnut streets.

Previous councils also expanded the town's "urban boundaries" - the areas in which one can develop. The most recent examples were the Fonthill and "Lookout Ridge" were added in 2000. Significant developable lands in Fenwick - from Crean to Balfour and

between Memorial and Welland Road - were added in 1990.

Once approved, these urban-right-of-way forever guarantee use by initiating Pelham trusts.

We've also discussed car use by initiating Pelham trusts.

We've also discussed car use by initiating Pelham trusts.

We've started by revitalizing Downtown Fonthill and Fenwick; in addition to rebuilding the streetscapes, one-third of the buildings in Pelham Street have recently improved their facades and added porches.

We've also encouraged walking

and cycling by building

more than 13 km of sidewalks,

9 km of bike lanes, 7 km of trails,

and 5 crosswalks. Now - 53 years after it opened - we've approved extending a sidewalk to Crossley.

We've also discussed car use by initiating Pelham trusts.

We've also discussed car use by initiating Pelham trusts.

We've also discussed car use by initiating Pelham trusts.

We've insisted on street-facing commercial development and on a pedestrian-friendly-as-possible parking. We continue to call for rear-lanes and we protected key environmental features.

Instead of consolidating services into a central building,

we're revitalizing the Maple Acre Library. And, we're constructing the new Pelham Community Centre near other amenities - like stores and restaurants, and a future medical centre, retirement home, and other "mixed-use."

Finally, we remain committed to the town's urban boundaries and increased the protections on the Fonthill Kame.

Correcting Pelham's sprawl isn't easy, but council and I will persevere toward that goal.

Please contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayor@pelham.ca with questions or ideas for future columns.

Please read past columns at www.pelhammayor.blogspot.com

changes.

Following the delivery of the report on this program, a short video was shown with testimonials from the clients and family members who have participated in this pilot program. All expressed support for the program and praised their community members who, they have all developed confidence in its performance and understanding of their personal circumstances.

The Public Health and Social Services Committee commended the medical officer of health and the chief of EMS for their leadership. This pilot project follows a 10-year commitment to outreach in Wainfleet where the smaller population impacts paramedic services. Regional Councillors recommended that the LHIN be requested to continue funding this initiative and explore full implementation in other parts of Niagara Region.

Brian Baty is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham and a member of the Public Health and Social Services Committee.
bran.baty@niagarariong.ca

Community paramedic service improves



A Paramedic pilot project is underway for residents of Port Colborne, Welland and Pelham. The program is aimed at reducing the bend of the curve of increasing 9-1-1 calls and provide better service for Niagara residents.

One Community Paramedic and one Care Coordinator led to a 61 per cent reduction in hospital admissions days, 34 per cent reduction in emergency department visits and a 40 per cent reduction in calls for ambulances through Emergency Medical Services over a period of one year in the group of people served.

The "high users" of emergency rooms, EMS and hospital resources comprise less than 5 per cent of the population but account for 60 per cent of acute care resources.

The funding of the program was \$90,611.60 in 2015 with additional funds allotted for



Niagara Emergency Medical chief Kevin Smith.

the first quarter of 2016. Cost avoidance to the hospital system during 2015 was approximately \$495,000.00 and to the Niagara EMS was an approximate \$22,400.00.

To achieve this remarkable result, the paramedic team identified 49 individuals with high EMS use, high emer-

gency department visits and hospital admissions. These individuals had accounted for an approximate cost of \$750,000 to the hospital system. By working closely with the medical direction of the family physician, the community paramedic made regular home visits and would

often try to address gaps such as sufficient housing, health literacy and nutrition that directly impacts the number of times they accessed the emergency room.

Over the course of one year, the community paramedic addressed 56 separate issues through coaching

or referral which resulted in the avoidance of 120 ambulance responses. In addition those individuals avoided the personal costs of \$45 for each emergency room visit resulting in savings flowing back to the health system. The hospitals save, the EMS saves and the citizen saves by avoiding ambulance

LOCAL NEWS

Fonthill fortress tale called misleading

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

Kevin Ker is asking town council to revise local information about Pelham's Wellington Heights story.

Ker, in a presentation to council on Wednesday night, said misinformation on the town's website and in documents, such as its 2012 Heritage Master Plan, have been used to make unfortunate decisions.

He is a Penwick resident trying to change a District School Board of Niagara decision to rename E.W. Park to Wellington.

The board plans to call it Wellington Heights after a fortress that was planned for Fonthill after the War of 1812.

In his research through the national archives, Ker said a fortress was proposed but never approved by the British government.

It was to replace Fort Mississauga, Fort George, fortifications at Queenston and Chippawa as well as Fort Erie along the Niagara River.

He said the name Wellington Heights was never applied to it because there already was a Fort Wellington at Prescott, Ont.

Resources for what was

called the fortress in the Short Hills were redirected to building the Rideau Canal, Kersaid.

The name Wellington Heights in Fonthill is most recent as a registered subdivision plan for the former Fonthill area by Ker.

They were offered for generations by a family called Wellington.

He said the Duke of Wellington may be a British war hero and later prime minister. However, he would be a poor role model for 2016 Canadian students in Niagara.

He was anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic, opposed reforming the limited 18th-century voting system, called the War of 1812 unwinnable, and withdrew support for First Nations allies during treaty negotiations to end the war, Ker said.

He said he was dismayed that new information about Wellington Heights had not been offered to people who suggested that name for a Penwick school.

It will merge E.W. Farr and Pelham Centre schools on the Farr school site where an addition is under construction.

Last Monday Pelham chief administrative officer

Darren Ottawa said town staff will use research material supplied by Ker.

They will create a report on changes for the town's documents and website.

Pelham Historical Society has put a disclaimer on its historical calendar informa-

tion, Ker said. It mentions the Fonthill fortress story.

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Remembering the sacrifices

**MICHELLE ALLENBERG
and LAURA BARTON**
Postmedia Network

Pelham holds Remembrance Day celebrations at the town's three cenotaphs the Sunday before Remembrance Day, but each year the main celebration it held at the Royal Canadian Legion branch on the day itself.

Nick Hatt, the service officer at Branch 613 on Regional Road 20, said more than 100 people attended last Friday afternoon's ceremony at the Legion to show their respect to the people who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"We normally get about 100, but we may get more than that. We have some chairs for the vets as they

get a little older, they may march, but they have to sit down and, hopefully, it's warm enough for them," Hatt said.

Branch 613 plays a large role in the lives of veterans in the community, Hatt said. Legion members offer support in the form of medical assistance, including supplying hearing aids or other types of support.

For Hatt, having branches in communities throughout Canada allows not only support, but also a place of reflection.

"We consider ourselves the keepers of remembrance. We have the poppy drive each year and that money goes directly to our veterans," Hatt said.

The Fonthill branch has a presence in schools

throughout the region, including St. Theresa in Port Colborne. Hatt said there are high school students who speak to students about their experience in war.

One of the Legion members who speaks to students is Jim Summersides, a Second World War veteran.

"We want them to know, we want them to remember that these people who come here today or celebrate it for us," Hatt said. "They were there, they fought war, so the kids are very appreciative of them having talked to them."

"Jimmy Summersides, he's 92 years old, he still goes and he stands up and is happy as anything to talk to them about the war."

See SACRIFICE on A9



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Second World War veteran Jim Summersides attends the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Royal Canadian Legion branch 613 in Pelham.



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LOCAL NEWS

Pelham housing costs an issue for seniors

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

commercial area.

"But those same seniors need affordable housing to live in. It is critical for decision makers of Fonthill to take seniors (30 per cent of Pelham's population) into consideration and start building affordable housing for us."

Planning director Barbara Wiens said the town's official plan allows second units, but only in some parts of the town.

The town, however, is working on an official plan amendment to spread the option throughout Pelham, she said.

A second unit resembles an apartment. It is different from a "granny flat," which the town allows in homes for a 10-year limit. A second unit is a permanent structure, built to the building code, with a fire wall separating it from the rest of the house and its own entrance.

Younger or older homeowners could rent the units as an income source, Ballard wrote.

Meanwhile, Pelham resident Lisa Heflin wrote that she hopes affordable housing has not been forgotten by town councillors.

"I would like to bring to your attention the uncertainty and distress of seniors who are obliged to downsize, whether the reason is age, health, location or size of the present abode," she said.

"It will be need to move from our home, many of us would like to stay in or near our community."

Harju said she finds little mention of local housing options for seniors in discussions about east Fonthill development.

"Elected town officials forget that seniors are still taxpayers, shoppers, users of services and other amenities," she wrote about the users of the new

affordable housing programs for the municipality or the private sector to tap into.

Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi said in its planning discussions town council tried to get ahead of the need for affordable housing by encouraging rentals and secondary dwellings.

Mayor Dave Augustynski said he brought up affordable housing during a federal up-front budget consultation in Niagara earlier Monday.

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp said affordability was a major topic at a seniors housing forum in Pelham last May. Developers attending the forum said supplying affordable housing would require more than giving directions to developers to build it. The public would have to share the costs with the developers.

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'Caring extends beyond our border'

SOURCE from AG

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn laid a wreath at last Friday's ceremony on behalf of the municipality. He said an addition to this year's ceremony was a flyover.

"One of them was the Lancaster coming over from the war plane museum, so that was a treat as well to show their respects. To really almost shake up the stones that are here when they flew over very very low," Augustyn said.

Port Cochrane's ceremony also saw planes fly overhead as veterans, students and other guests took a moment to reflect at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park.

Bryan Ingram, who spoke on behalf of Niagara Centre MP Vance Badaway, said Canadians owe a debt that can never be repaid and he wanted to acknowledge the men and women, including those from the First Nations, who have fought for Canada.

He said working for Badaway has given him the opportunity to meet many veterans.

"The one thing I'm struck by is their

belief in humanity," he said. "So today, and everyday, I would encourage us to find humanity in each other, the things that bring us together, so that we may live our very lives honouring those people who have given theirs."

Port Cochrane Mayor John Maloney said Canada is a nation that cares, which is why the nation pauses on Nov. 11 to pay its respects. He said that caring extends beyond our borders to our armed forces, fighting for all.

Bob Saracino, vice-president of the Royal Canadian Legion branch 56 in Port Cochrane, which hosted the ceremony, expressed how much of an honour and a privilege he felt it was to live in a country veterans fought and died for.

"Let us pause and reflect at the cost of this poppy, because it cost us so many millions of human lives and sacrifice to preserve our democracy so that we have this freedom that we all enjoy today."

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Protesters demand audit

Laura Barton
Postmedia Network

last week, but the group was adamant about protesting the NPPCA and demanding a forensic audit be done on the organization.

"I fully believe in the forensic audit," Welland resident Judi Bennett said.

See AUDIT on A16



Laura Barton/Postmedia Network

A group of about 20 protesters gathers outside of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority office on Thorold Road in Welland carrying signs that demand transparency and a forensic audit.

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LOCAL NEWS

Syrian refugees ‘overwhelmed and grateful’

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

It came out the out of the blue — a nightmare of guns and death.

Everything that Wael Kadous and Mania Atiya knew

ious and Manna Atiya knew was being torn apart by a civil war pounding their Sy-

fan city of Homs

"The war began, and people just started killing each other," said Kadious, 28, in a translated interview at the Knights of Columbus Council 1394 hall in St. Catharines.

"We never thought to carry any weapons or to fight with

or against anyone."

As the conflict escalated, water and food became scarce. People literally could not go to work, he said.

"So in 2012 we had to flee to Lebanon to stay safe, and get away from that war."

See REFUGEE on A20



50s-1970s/Post-Vietnam WORK

Syrian refugees to Niagara Wael Kadrous, wife Mania Atiya and their daughter Mia are shown at a Knights of Columbus hall breakfast.



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'I expect them to do the job my taxes are paying for'

AUDIT from AIO

Bennett and many other protesters on scene shared the notion that, as taxpayers, they are paying the NPCA's wages and have a right to know what's going on.

St. Catharines resident Vicki-Lynn Smith came to Welland to voice her concerns as well.

Asked if she had a specific issue with the NPCA, she responded by saying, "I have a citizen issue and if my taxes are paying for something, I expect them to

do the job my taxes are paying for."

Dave Honey, president of the Niagara Landowners Association, wants complete transparency from the organization and also to know how the organization is using his tax dollars.

Bennett said they support Niagara Centre MPP Cindy Forster's letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources asking for a forensic audit of the organization.

Communications specialist for the NPCA, Michael Reles said NPCA regularly

shares its audit statements online and said the agency is "ahead of the curve" in terms of transparency.

It is also the only one to live-stream board meetings, he said.

"There are only two other conservation authorities in the province that post their financial statements monthly and report them to the board, which we do."

As for the forensic audit, he said audits of that kind are not usually done on an entire organization.

Rather, audits are done



Laura Barton/Postmedia Network

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Fred Bracken of Fort Erie travelled all the way to Welland to protest the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and demand a forensic audit.

of operations or certain projects within the organization.

"The ministry already commented that our board of directors can't be ordered to do an audit,"

and, in fact, I've been informed that only our board of directors can order a forensic audit, he said.

He said one of the reasons people are protesting is because the NPCA regulates what people can and can't do with private property, but the organization is following the provincial government mandate.

"You're going to make some people angry in that process, and that's fine, but what we can't build a dialogue with people who are upset about maybe what we've not allowed them to do on their property."

In response to those protesting former NPCA chief administrative officer Carmen D'Angelo specifically, he said D'Angelo always had an open door policy and anyone could have met with him to discuss their issues.

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LOCAL NEWS

New concert series comes to Meridian Centre

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Country singer BJ Thomas, Irish crooner Daniel O'Donnell and tribute artist Mike Walker will form the first annual Festival of Stars coming to the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines Dec. 4 and 5.

The concerts are part of the Winter Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls, taking place Nov. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2. It's similar to a previous concert series connected to the festival, organized by Pathway Concert Promotions; the new two-day event is not

related.

It's organized by Toronto-based Attila Glatz Concert Productions, which stages performances internationally.

"The Niagara region is stunning and full of worthy attractions year-round," said founder and executive producer Attila Glatz. "We are humbled to be a part of this already rich landscape, bringing music back to the Winter Festival of Lights."

O'Donnell, who also performed for the Festival of Lights' concert series two years ago when it moved to the Meridian Centre, will play

both dates this year: Dec. 4 at 1:30 p.m. and Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. The Irish icon has sold more than 10 million records and is the star of 14 PBS specials. He'll be joined by Mary Duff and Northern Irish Country Award winner for Song of the Year, Derek Ryan.

Thomas, a five-time Grammy winner, performs Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. After a handful of hits in the late '60s including "Hooked On A Feeling," Thomas had a breakthrough in 1970 and won an Oscar for "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head" from the classic movie Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. He would top the

charts again five years later with the cheeky country song ("I'm Gonna) Love You Play"). Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song, which is still the longest title of any song to hit #1.

Mike Walker will bring his tribute show Conway Twitty Remembered to the arena Dec. 4 at 8 p.m., performing such Twitty staples as "Don't Take It Away" and "Hello Darlin'."

Tickets range from \$49.50 to \$89 for Walker, \$54.50 to \$119 for Thomas and \$67.50 to \$143 for O'Donnell.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

BJ Thomas plays the first Festival of Stars concert series coming to the Meridian Centre Dec. 4 and 5.

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LOCAL NEWS

Canadians termed most generous and kind

REFUGEE from A12

They became refugees and stayed in a safe-room not much larger than the bathroom of their Port Dalhousie apartment where they recently moved.

"It was quite a challenge. We had no family, friends, and everything we knew," said Kadmos, noting the couple had their child Mira, now 2, as stateless refugees. Because of the war, there was fear of Syrians in Lebanon, so it was also hard

to find employment there.

Kadmos — whose family came to Niagara on Halloween on Mira's birthday — is among a number of Canadian refugee families sponsored through the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cambridge.

Acting as the local co-ordinator was a refugee team from Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church in Port Dalhousie that included its Catholic Women's League.

Supporting them was the

Knights of Columbus, who helped raise \$30,000 needed for the private sponsorship.

Ronica Zinati — a Star of the Sea parishioner — said when Atiya was to give birth, they registered with the United Nations to get needed help and hopefully a permanent home.

"We were looking for a family to sponsor for our church and had a contact who was in Lebanon, worked with the UN and who recommended this little Catholic family," said

Zinati, who also served as a translator for the Sunday interview.

"Watching this unfold, seeing everybody come together to help this family has been just remarkable," Zinati said.

Council 1394 Grand Knight John Nixon said the help was "part of what the Knights of Columbus do — we support local needs like this."

"When we heard about a

Star of the Sea team doing this, we were happy to help."

The family was invited to a weekend fundraising breakfast organized by the Knights at their Church Street hall.

Fortunes have rapidly changed for the couple who expressed gratitude for the assistance they've received from the church, and its parishers.

Kadmos, who is a carpenter, was recently hired by Ems Cabinetetry in St. Catharines.

"It feels pretty good — and safe," Kadmos said in English and with a laugh.

Recently, his brother Saer and his family have also come

to Niagara as sponsored refugees by St. Vincent de Paul in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I am super grateful for everything everyone has done for us," said Atiya, also in a translation. "I could never imagine it would be so easy to settle here when we were so driven by so much love, affection, kindness and generosity."

"And I am overwhelmed and very grateful."

The couple said Canadians and the "most generous and kind we have ever known, or met."

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LOCAL NEWS

Positive impact goal of youth citizen of the year

Laura Barton
Postmedia Network

Karling Luciani says she doesn't do what she does for recognition, but she's been recognized anyway.

The Grade 12 Welland Centennial Secondary School student recently won the Youth Citizen of the Year Award through Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce's Ruby Awards.

"I wake up every day to just make a difference in students' lives and just get them involved with the community," says Luciani, 17.

She says Welland's community is important to her and she's really appreciative of all the opportunities both it and Centennial have offered her.

While managing an above 90 per cent grade point average throughout her high school career, Luciani has also been on Centennial's Relay for Life committee, is a mental health advocate and club leader, and, this year, is student council prime minister and a member of the Ministry of Education's student advisory panel.

She doesn't get much downtime to herself, staying long hours after school to take care of student council duties and events among other things.

But to her it's all worth it.

"After I have done something for students and I see the smile on their faces it just leaves me with the biggest smile and I'm just really grateful for that," she says.

One of her goals is to help other students feel included and to give them a positive high school experience.

She also knows that she has to take care of her own well-being first because when she's in a good place, she's better able to help others.

Among those that keep her going are her two siblings Kamrie and Connor. The three together make up



Laura Barton/Postmedia Network

Welland Centennial Secondary School student Karling Luciani holds up the trophy she won as Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce Youth Citizen of the Year. She spends countless hours making sure that all students have a positive high school experience.

a set of triplets. Luciani says although they're each very different, they're there for each other.

"I came to Centennial not really knowing anyone," she said. "I just remember to — with my brother and sister's encouragement — just to try and get involved as much as I can."

Luciani says winning the Youth Citizen of the Year Award came as a shock to her. "I don't do what I do for rec-

ognition. I just do it because I'm making positive change, so this was the very first time I felt recognized."

"It was definitely a weird feeling, but I'm really appreciative that the chamber of commerce recognizes such amazing citizens in the community."

Luciani had the chance to share the winning moment with her parents and her grandmother, which made the experience even more special. Meet-

ing all of the other nominees and Ruby Award winners was something she enjoyed, too.

She's off to university next year, aiming for a degree in biomedical science. She's also bringing along her drive for the community from her post-secondary life.

"I don't want to stop here at all. I want to keep going and just keep making a bigger difference every single day."

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There is an opportunity at any time during this process for interested persons to bring comments and concerns to the attention of the project managers, and to review outstanding issues. If you have any questions or comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact us at niagararegion.ca/2041.

The Transportation and Water and Wastewater studies follow the Master Plan process as outlined in Section A.2.7 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Oct 2009, as amended in 2000, 2011 and 2015). The Master Plan will be filed under Approach #2 of the MEA Class EA Approach for Master Planning. The Master Servicing Plan will satisfy the planning requirements for Schedule A, A+ and select Schedule B projects and provide the basis for future investigations of identified Schedule B and C projects.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to access the project documents, contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or 1-800-263-7215 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca to make the appropriate arrangements.

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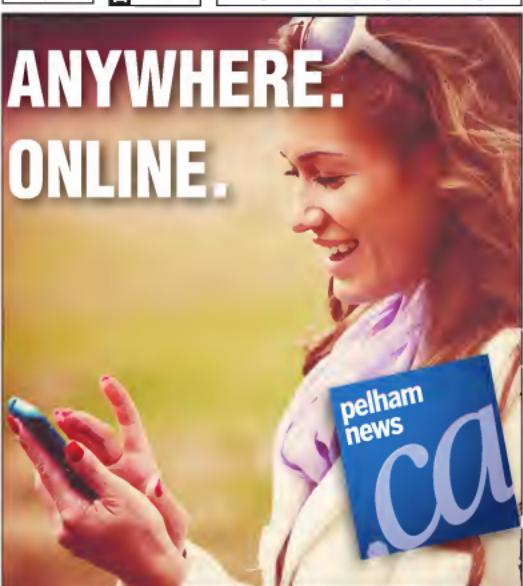
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Obituaries

Obituaries

MCCARTNEY, Janet - it is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Janet McCartney, beloved tax lady of Fenwick. She peacefully left this world on November 11, 2016. She was preceded by her family and is now with Brian looking out after her children Debbie (Sean), Dan (Lisa), Chris (Shari), Byron (Leslie), Lesanne (Tim), her brother Jack (Wendy) and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at the **LAMPMAN FUNERAL HOME**, Canboro Road Fenwick on Saturday November 19th at 10:30 AM. Inurnment at Hillside Cemetery in Ridgeway to follow. The family will receive family and friends on Friday November 18th from 7-9PM.
[www.lampmanfuneralhome.ca](http://lampmanfuneralhome.ca)



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